

## God Winked (Acts 17:22-31) 1

One of the most often used forms of communication is body language. Studies have shown that the majority of our communication is by body language. I can tell a lot by folks body language in church. Kicked back, slumped in the seat, means rather apathetic, arms folded, tell me you don't want to hear what I am saying or cold. One of the most unusual forms of body language is a wink. A wink can mean all sorts of things. If I am at the house and I wink that wink of romance at my wife she knows what that means. If I look at Evan at the dinner table and wink, it means an entirely different thing. I often preach at the jail, and when I'm down there I don't do a lot of winking, cause it means something all together different. Here, God is winking. What is he saying? Does God wink at our sin. A shy twitch of permission and say "Aww, that's OK!" That's what the world wants us to think. They want a nana heavenly father, but a heavenly Grandfather, that winks with a chuckle rolls his eyes + says "Boys will be Boys" Is that what God is saying. That goes against scripture. Paul Explain yourself! In the context, Athens = glut of gods, filled with Fornic, loaded with lust, pulsating w/ Pride. Paul sees this altar Unknown God, This is the God I know and he says - tell me about it. His Note is the Gospel.



## I. The Passing of God's Visitation (vs 30a) α

A. "God winked at" = God passed over. He closed his eyes to, For Centuries worshipped gods. God Passed over <sup>but mercifully</sup> ~~not permissively~~

B. The Darkened Heart God Passes Over - "ignorance" = a lack of knowledge or perception. Time of Widespread ignorance. <sup>Dark Ages</sup>

1... is a Lawless Heart - Not that there was no law but they lived in rebellion to it. Ex: Wild West. No representatives No Tablets of Stone, No thunder & lightning. Only the dim light of creation & conscience. Enough to convict but not convert <sup>Eph 4:18 Rom 3:20</sup>

2... is a Lost Heart - In their ignorance they were simply lost. To ease their conscience, they created gods to suit themselves, and wandered aimlessly among. Sheep <sup>Cor 4:3-4 Is 53:6</sup> having no shepherd

3... is a Leathel Heart - Each & every one of these darkened hearts had a rendezvous w/ death Heb 9:27. Rebelled against their accusing conscience, suppressed the truth in... <sup>Rom 1:21-23</sup> The wages, the return, the reaction from God upon such deeds is death. <sup>Eze 18:4, Heb 2:16, Jer 17:1</sup>

C. The Divine Heart God Portrays - And yet "God winked" He passed over these darkened hearts. He over looked their blasphemy, idolatry, deceit, theft. Here we see the heart of God <sup>Portrayed</sup>

1. We see the Willingness of God's Heart - By the demands of God's law and the expectation of God's Holiness, God's anger should have been poured out on Athens like Sodom & Should He not today? If we instantly got what we deserved swept away in tsunami of God's wrath, God who is Righteous & Holy is <sup>Peter 3:4 Ps 130:3</sup> merciful

2. We see the Wonder of God's Heart - A divine heart of unexplainable love toward sinful man, gushes forth in mercy. We have rebelled against our God given conscience shook our fist in God's face, despised His Word & Way, all the while we lap up his gracious bounty of life. <sup>John 3:16</sup> Oh Love of God How rich

**Ephesians 4:18** Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:

**Romans 3:20** ...for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

**2 Corinthians 4:3-4** But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

**Isaiah 53:6** All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

**Romans 1:21-23** Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.

**Ezekiel 18:4** ...the soul that sinneth, it shall die.

**Hebrews 2:2** ...every transgression and disobedience received a just recompence of reward;

**Jeremiah 11:3** ...Thus saith the LORD God of Israel; Cursed be the man that obeyeth not the words of this covenant,

**2 Peter 3:9** The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

**Psalms 130:3** If thou, LORD, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand?

... preaching the gospel, which is the  
us 2. ... 2. ... die  
Am 1. ...

Bible Preaching always makes demands  
some people have to do, that was a  
challenging message. But the fact is  
God word does not deliver challenges  
He issues commands; divine directive  
not Sovereign Suggestions

... judge the wicked, Wear  
unless you believe, you will  
die in your sins.



## II. The Proclamation of God's Voice (Vs 30b) 3

A. A lot of questions these days about what God is saying. What did Jesus really say? Bible really say? Does it say the same today as it did back then? What is God saying today? Here in our text we have a clear concise summary of what God is saying to a lost & dying world.

B. An Uncompromising Proclamation - It's not "God suggests that all men..." He's not your therapist that looked at what you have currently been trying and suggests, "I think you should try Jesus." It's not "God recommends that all men..." He's not your Dr. that has looked over your present symptoms & writes you a Jn 3:16 prescription. No this is a command of the King. God's call of salvation is a command and not a suggestion. God's not playing "Let's make a Deal" at the foot of the cross. You can't say well I'll give you my blasphemy, lying, & stealing, I'll start coming to church, if you will give me eternal life. No! A Communist surrenders! When we <sup>are in rebellion</sup> surrender we

C. An Undiscriminating Proclamation - "All men everywhere." It does not matter who you are, you are commanded to repent and believe the Gospel. Well Bro Ronnie, you don't know my background, I was abused as a child, or I was born with a silver spoon in my mouth, God commandeth all men. Well Bro. Ronnie my parents never took me to church, or I've been in church all my life. God commandeth all men. I grew up on the poor side of town, or I'm from a wealthy family & grew up here. To the wealthy: your sins will find you out. Poor: all have sinned, O! you will reap what you sow. <sup>the poor & wealthy will be stored up for the day of wrath</sup> <sup>Psalm 1:1</sup> God will

### III The Promise of God's Verdict (vs 31) 7

A. Why should all men repent? Because... The missing element from the pulpits in our land is the <sup>Judgment</sup> ~~surety of Divine~~ <sup>judgment</sup>.

#### B. A Future Appointment with Judgment -

The forcefulness with which Paul mentions this <sup>Day</sup> of judgment indicates that there is a certain day fixed in time when the world will be judged in righteousness. As it was true in Paul's day it is true today, that day is ever approaching. A day in which every idol ~~word~~ <sup>man</sup> speaks he will give an account of. A day in which the pent up flood-tide of God's anger & fury against sin will be poured out without measure upon the hard hearted, un-repentent sinner. For the <sup>the rebellious sinner it looms ahead</sup> repentant believer, this judgment was settled long ago. For

#### C. A Present Assurance of Judgment - De

we have any present assurances that this Judgment will take place? Paul goes on to explain that we are assured Judgment because of the Resurrection of Christ. John 5: 22 I saw a banner one time at a evangelistic crusade that said, "Jesus is coming back and here is he made!" Every eye that dis-regarded the Christ that died to save them, will look into His righteous eyes Judgment, where the secret sins of darkness will be brought to light. Today, the empty grave is a <sup>harsh</sup> reminder of the coming Judgment. M. Henry wrote...

IV. Come "God Winked" My question to you today is this: Is God continuing to wink at you, to close His eyes lest lest his righteous judgment burst forth upon your rebellious sinful heart! M Henry concluded <sup>this passage</sup>



John 5:22 For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son:

Matthew Henry

Let all his enemies be assured of it, and tremble before him; let all his friends be assured of it, and triumph in him.

Matthew Henry

The consideration of the judgment to come, and of the great hand Christ will have in that judgment, should engage us all to repent of our sins and turn from them to God. This is the only way to make the Judge our friend in that day, which will be a terrible day to all who live and die impenitent; but true penitents will then *lift up their heads with joy, knowing that their redemption draws nigh.*

...judge the wicked. Weak: unless you believe, you will die in your sins.